United Nations E/AC.51/2001/L.6/Add.7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
6 July 2001

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-first session
11 June-6 July 2001
Agenda item 4 (a)
Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-first session

Draft report

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 5, Peacekeeping operations

1. At its 17th meeting, on 21 June 2001, the Committee considered section 5, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect. 5)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 5 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was given to the activities of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The important role of the Department in the maintenance of peace and security, one of the priorities of the Organization, was reaffirmed. The presentation of the programme narrative of the section was welcomed, which was in keeping with the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and with resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000 on results-based budgeting. While appreciation was expressed for the simplicity of language of a number of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, the view was also expressed that some of the terminology used in the expected accomplishments and indicators could be better formulated and better harmonized with the text of the medium-term plan. It was noted that some of the

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indicators of achievements focused more on the parties to conflict rather than what was being done by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

4. As regards the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements under subprogramme 1, Operations, in particular the "reduction and/or cessation of hostilities in areas of conflict through the fulfilment of Security Council mandates where peacekeeping operations are deployed", the view was expressed that, while there was an expectation that those could be fulfilled, some of those accomplishments might be difficult to achieve.

5. The particular attention given to a number of important issues in the programme narrative was welcomed, such as the safety and security of peacekeepers in the field; the training of personnel; sound management of peacekeepers in the field; the continuous flow of information to and from Member States in all phases of operations; the integration of past and current practices into the institutional memory of the United Nations; the development and implementation of innovative strategies aimed at gender parity on a broad geographic basis in all aspects of peacekeeping operations; and on measures to be undertaken by the Department in providing for dialogue with troop-contributing countries and members of the Security Council, particularly on the needs of troop-contributing countries that might be in a position to provide troops. On the other hand, given the importance attached to the safety and security of staff in the field, regret was expressed that it had not been included as one of the expected accomplishments in the programme narrative.

6. It was pointed out that since peacekeeping was one of the core functions of the Organization, the capacity of the Department to fulfil its mandated activities should be strengthened. The proposed establishment of a Director of the Europe and Latin American Division was welcomed, therefore, as well as the establishment of a Civilian Police Division and the enhancement of the Department's doctrine and development of best practices. It was emphasized, that in strengthening the capacity of the Department, due regard should be given to geographical balance. It was also emphasized that proper representation of troop-contributing countries in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat should be insured. It was noted that the proposals under the section were still subject to decisions to be taken in connection with the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation on the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations.

7. It was noted that, although certain activities under the programme were of a permanent nature, those activities continued to be funded on a temporary basis from resources under the support account for peacekeeping operations.

8. Support was given to the two peacekeeping missions funded from the regular budget, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. The view was expressed that the resources proposed for those two missions took into account the efficient use of resources and allowed for the implementation of the programme of activities.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 5, Peacekeeping operations, of the proposed

programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Paragraph 5.3

Replace the first sentence with the entire text of paragraph 3.1 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

In the seventh sentence, replace the phrase "on a broad geographic basis" with "and on as wide a geographical basis as possible".

After the seventh sentence, add the following sentence:

"However, this will not affect the troop-contributing countries in taking their sovereign decisions on the composition of their units deployed to peacekeeping operations within the mission's specific guidelines, as agreed upon by troop-contributing countries".

Paragraph 5.8

At the end of the penultimate sentence, replace the phrase "peace operations" with "peacekeeping operations".

Paragraph 5.24

After the phrase "Security Council mandates", delete the phrase reading "and that other parties ... their role".

Paragraph 5.25

After the phrase "and provision of support to meetings with Member States", replace the phrase reading "other United Nations programmes ... non-governmental organizations" with "by other Organizations within the United Nations system, as well as with other regional organizations and actors, in accordance with legislative mandates".

Table 5.11

Under indicators of achievement (b), add two additional indicators, as follows:

"(i) Reduction in the duration of the liquidation process;

"(ii) Timeliness of the processing and setting of claims of troop-contributing countries by the Claims and Information Management Section (CMSS) under the Field Management and Support Services (FMSS)".

Paragraph 5.32

After the phrase "required military and civilian police components", add the phrase "that meet the relevant prerequisites of the peacekeeping missions", and delete the words "to peacekeeping missions".

Paragraph 5.33

In subparagraphs (b), (c) and (d), replace the phrase "peace operations" with the phrase "peacekeeping operation(s)".

10. The Committee took note of the Secretariat's assurance that the expected increase in extrabudgetary funding was not associated with a recourse to hiring gratis personnel.

11. The Committee recommended that, in implementing programme activities under this section, special attention should be given to enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers in the field.